

# SIMPSON, IN 2-HOUR BATTLE, FAILS TO WEAKEN MRS. HALL'S TESTIMONY

## Scathing Attack Unable to Shake Her Equanimity

The defense in the Hall-Mills murder trial rested its case at 2.15 p.m.

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Nov. 29.—The lamb for whom Special Prosecutor Alexander Simpson had reserved his most piercing verbal lances stepped from the witness stand today unscathed and unmoved.

After a two-hour battle of wits, Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall emerged dignified and triumphant at the end of her cross-examination, while the fiery prosecutor seemed engulfed in the ashes of exasperation.

Not even the torn love letters which her husband, the Rev. Edward W. Hall, had written to Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills, and which had been strewn over their bodies by the murderers, could shake the equanimity of the witness.

The minister's diary, in which had been set down his deep-rooted passion for the pretty choir singer; additional flaming missives of affection—these also failed to unnerve Mrs. Hall, to cause her to divert in the slightest detail from the straightforward story she had told on direct examination.

A faint smile, almost a sneer, played about the widow's lips as she successfully parried the rapier-like thrusts of the astute Simpson. An expert on cross-examination, he leaped from one phase of the case to another with the nimbleness of a mountain goat.

First he sought and did bring out that Mrs. Hall still believes



Edwin Carpender J. J. Underwood

her husband to have been faithful, that his affair with Mrs. Mills was but "some slight thing," of which she learned only through the letters and diary. Then, with the suddenness of lightning, Simpson took her by his questions to the murder farm.

"You didn't see your husband struggling with Henry Stevens and see him killed before your eyes," he demanded with a half-snarl.

"No," was the calm reply, made in a low voice, but very distinct.

"Nor see Eleanor Mills fall with three bullets in her head?" pressed the special prosecutor.

Once more the answer was in the negative.

But these tactics made not the slightest impression upon Mrs. Hall. She met each query with a firm, definite retort, seeking not to quibble but eager to proclaim her innocence.

She repeated that there never had come to her attention anything to make her suspicious of Dr. Hall or to indicate his relations with Mrs. Mills were other than platonic; she reiterated her movements from the

## Faces New Ordeal on Stand



**FIERCE GRILLING** awaits Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, who, today will again take the stand for cross-examination at the Hall-Mills trial. The widow is shown above as she appeared on the stand Saturday, at which time she retained her composure throughout the state's attacks on her story and denied complicity in the slaying of her husband and Mrs. Mills.

## Carroll, Home for Appeal, Denies Buckner 'Orders'

Earl Carroll, knight of the bathtub, came back to America on the Leviathan today "to face whatever decision the court makes" on his appeal from the conviction on a charge of perjury.

Carroll was in his usual jocular mood and did not appear to be worried at the possibility he may have to go to Atlanta for a more or less lengthy sojourn.

Carroll was serious long enough to brand as untrue the reports that he had been ordered back from abroad by United States Attorney Emory R. Buckner.

"I came back because I wanted to, no other reason," he declared.

### Foe Meets Ship

By a strange coincidence Phil Payne, managing editor of the Mirror, went down the Bay to meet Miss Dorothy Hughes, his fiancee. Payne was accused by Carroll of breaking confidence to reveal the Joyce Hawley bathtub scandal. When Carroll heard of his presence, he said:

"That's all right, the ship is big enough for two."

The producer said he was particularly interested in the program at the Moulin Rouge, which features bathing modes from the ancient Romans to the Carroll style à la champagne. He remarked there was only one difference between United States nudity and French nudity.

"In Paris the women move about, while in America it is nudity in still life."

### Praised By Duchess

The Duchess of Richelieu, also a passenger, had praise for Carroll as an entertainer. She said he made the trip much less boring.

Carroll's ready smile may turn

## Smith, Tanned, Back From 2 Weeks' Rest

Dressed in a brand new brown suit to match his sun-browned face, Gov. Al Smith came back from Absecon, N. J., today, where he spent two weeks chasing golf balls and political worries, if he has any.

Gov. Smith said he never felt better. He has much to do. His tasks are headed by the preparation of an inaugural speech.

The governor announced the appointment of James A. Donnelly as justice of the City Court to fill the place left vacant by Joseph M. Callahan, who was elevated to the Supreme Court bench. Mr. Donnelly is an assistant corporation counsel.



A. E. Smith

## Hall Case Shows Power Of Press, Says Dr. Stratton

By REV. JOHN ROACH STRATON, D. D.

Pastor Calvary Baptist Church, New York city  
(Copyright, 1926, The New York Evening GRAPHIC. All rights reserved.  
Reproduction prohibited.)

In my article of yesterday I gave sample extracts from two different kinds of letters that have been received, commenting on this series of articles, and I used the fact that the commendatory letters were at the rate of 200 to 1 to the denunciatory letters as an indication that the newspaper readers of today will prevailingly stand for righteousness.

Whether we like it or not, we are facing the fact that the printing press today is one of the most potent influences in modern society, both for evil and for good.

In the fifteenth century there was a German lad who had the euphonious name of Johann Genefleisch. Translated into plain English, this means John Rev. J. R. Stratton Gooseflesh.

It is said that John was one day playing near a pot of boiling dye with which his father was preparing to color some skins. He had cut the letters of his name from the bark of a tree, and was spreading them out to form his name, when one of them accidentally fell into the pot of boiling dye. Quickly John plunged in his fingers to rescue the letter.

It fell upon one of the white skins which were waiting to be dyed, and when John lifted the block away he saw a beautiful purple "H" smiling up at him. That was the first letter ever printed upon the continent of Europe.

Whether he admired the marks on the skin, or ruminated ruefully on the marks which his irate father might make upon his own

(Continued on Page 33)

## LEAPS FROM TRUCK, DIES WHEN HE HITS ANOTHER

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., Nov. 29.—Donato Pisano, 28, of 168 South 10th Ave., was instantly killed today when he leaped from the running board of one truck and struck the side of another on West Lincoln Road. Donato made the leap when he feared he might be brushed off the running board by the second truck.

## Mehl's Sister Tells Jury Of Attack in Cellar

Echoes of the strange disappearance of John Mehl, prosperous poultry merchant, were heard again in Brooklyn today as the trial of Samuel Serota, real estate operator, for the shooting of Grace Mehl, 30, got under way in Supreme Court before Justice Cropssey and a jury.

Miss Mehl, who insists that Serota knows what became of her brother, who has been missing since April, told the jury a story of the attack on herself and her niece, Ruth, 17. Miss Mehl was shot in the face on June 29 while she was in the cellar of her home, where Serota had gone with a friend to "examine some saddles."

Serota is charged with assault as a second offender. Miss Mehl testified that on April 19 Serota came to their home, at 1155 Clarkson Ave., Flatbush, and talked with her brother. They left the house together, and later Serota

returned alone, explaining that Mehl had met with an accident.

Thereafter suspicious happenings, she testified, made her accuse Serota of knowing more than he has told.

Police, at Miss Mehl's request, searched the swamps of Canarsie for her brother.

Edward J. Reilly, counsel for Serota, who was blackjacked by a man in navy uniform at Broadway and 45th Street yesterday, appeared in court with a scalp wound bandaged.